

Appl. No. 10/033,205
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

The below listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Support for the amendments to independent claims 1 and 18 is found, *inter alia*, in the specification on page 2, lines 12-13; page 3, line 23, to page 4, line 3; page 7, lines 9-16; and page 11, lines 18-21. Claims 2, 3, and 22 have been canceled. Claims 4-17 and 19-21 have been amended to correct for formalities including antecedent basis and grammatical errors. No new matter has been added.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A golf ball layer component selected from the group consisting of a core, a cover, and an intermediate layer located between a core and a cover, the golf ball component comprising:

- (a) a triblock copolymer having:
 - (i) a first polymer block comprising an aromatic vinyl compound,
 - (ii) a second polymer block including a first compound selected from the group consisting of comprising a diene compound and a hydrogenation product of the diene compound, and
 - (iii) a third polymer block including a second compound selected from the group consisting of a diene compound, a hydrogenation product of the diene compound, and an aromatic vinyl compound, and
 - (iii)(iv) at least one hydroxyl group located at a block copolymer,
or a hydrogenation product of the triblock copolymer, or mixture thereof,
- (b) a base polymer; and
- (c) a polymeric modifier consisting of selected from the group consisting of:

Appl. No. 10/033,205
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

(i) an impact modifier, or

(ii) a functionalized polymer, ~~the functionalized polymer consisting of~~
selected from the group consisting of a copolymer or and a terpolymer having,
wherein the copolymer includes an end group selected from the group consisting
of a glycidyl group, a hydroxyl group, a maleic anhydride group, or and a
carboxylic group, or and the terpolymer includes an end group selected from the
group consisting of a glycidyl group, a hydroxyl group, a maleic anhydride group,
and a carboxylic group, and

(iii) mixtures of the impact modifier and the functionalized polymer.

Claim 2 (canceled)

Claim 3 (canceled)

Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 1, wherein the
base polymer ~~comprises~~includes an ionomeric polymer ~~comprising~~selected from the group
consisting of copolymeric polymers, terpolymeric polymers, ~~or and~~ mixtures thereof.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 1, wherein the
base polymer ~~comprises~~includes a non-ionomeric polymer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 1, wherein the
ratio by weight of the triblock copolymer to the base polymer ranges between about 10:90 and
about 90:10.

Appl. No. 10/033,205

Amdt. dated September 9, 2003

Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

Claim 7 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 61, wherein the ratio by weight of the triblock copolymer to the base polymer ranges between about 10:90 and about 70:30.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 71, wherein the ratio by weight of the triblock copolymer to the base polymer ranges between about 10:90 and about 60:40.

Claim 9 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 1, wherein the layer comprises golf ball component includes the impact modifier in an amount between about 0.1 and about 15 parts per hundred by weight of the total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 10 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 91, wherein the layer comprises golf ball component includes the impact modifier in an amount between about 1 and about 10 parts per hundred by weight of the total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 1, wherein the impact modifier is selected from the group consisting of acrylic impact modifier, ethylene vinyl acetate, polyaryl ether, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, methacrylate-butadiene-styrene and, chlorinated polyethylene, or and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer component as defined in claim 11, wherein the acrylic impact modifier is selected from the group consisting of methyl methacrylate butylacrylate styrene, methyl methacrylate ethyl hexylacrylate styrene, or and mixtures thereof.

Appl. No. 10/033,205
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

Claim 13 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer~~component~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the ~~layer comprises~~golf ball component includes the functionalized polymer in an amount between about 0.1 and about 15 parts per hundred by weight of ~~the~~ total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer~~component~~ as defined in claim ~~13~~1, wherein the ~~layer comprises~~golf ball component includes the functionalized polymer in an amount between about 1 and about 10 parts per hundred by weight of ~~the~~ total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer~~component~~ as defined in claim 1, wherein the ~~layer comprises~~golf ball component includes the polymeric modifier in an amount less than about 20 parts per hundred by weight of ~~the~~ total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer~~component~~ as defined in claim ~~15~~1, wherein the ~~layer comprises~~golf ball component includes the polymeric modifier in an amount less than about 15 parts per hundred by weight of ~~the~~ total amount of the triblock copolymer and the base polymer.

Claim 17 (currently amended): ~~A~~The golf ball layer~~component~~ as defined in claim 1, further comprising an ingredient selected from the group consisting of UV stabilizers, photostabilizers, photoinitiators, co-initiators, antioxidants, colorants, dispersants, mold releasing agents, processing aids, inorganic fillers, organic fillers, or~~and~~ mixtures thereof.

Appl. No. 10/033,205

Amdt. dated September 9, 2003

Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

Claim 18 (currently amended): A method for making a golf ball layer component selected from the group consisting of a core, a cover, and an intermediate layer located between a core and a cover, the method comprising:

preparing a composition comprising:

(a) a triblock copolymer having:

(i) a first polymer block comprising an aromatic vinyl compound,

(ii) a second polymer block including a first compound selected from the group consisting of comprising a diene compound and a hydrogenation product of the diene compound, and

(iii) a third polymer block including a second compound selected from the group consisting of a diene compound, a hydrogenation product of the diene compound, and an aromatic vinyl compound, and

~~(iii)(iv) at least one hydroxyl group located at a block copolymer, or a hydrogenation product of the triblock copolymer, or mixtures thereof;~~

(b) a base polymer; and

(c) a polymeric modifier ~~consisting of~~ selected from the group consisting of

(i) an impact modifier, or

~~(ii) a functionalized polymer, the functionalized polymer consisting of~~
selected from the group consisting of a copolymer or and a terpolymer having
wherein the copolymer includes an end group selected from the group consisting
of a glycidyl group, a hydroxyl group, a maleic anhydride group, or and a
carboxylic group, or and the terpolymer includes an end group selected from the
group consisting of a glycidyl group, a hydroxyl group, a maleic anhydride group,
and a carboxylic group, and

(iii) mixtures of the impact modifier and the functionalized polymer, and incorporating the composition into the golf ball layer component.

Appl. No. 10/033,205
Amdt. dated September 9, 2003
Reply to Office Action of March 10, 2003

Claim 19 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method as defined in claim 18, wherein the step of preparing a composition comprises a step of dry-blending the composition.

Claim 20 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method as defined in claim 18, wherein the step of preparing a composition comprises a step of mixing the composition using a device selected from the group consisting of a mill, an internal mixer, or an extruder.

Claim 21 (currently amended): ~~A~~The method as defined in claim 20, wherein the step of mixing the composition comprises melting the composition.

Claim 22 (canceled)